

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES \$6 MILLION INVESTMENT IN JOHNSTON COUNTY *One North Carolina Fund Grant Helps Johnston County Company Add 76 Jobs to Local Workforce*

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley announced today that AB Automotive Inc., a division of United Kingdom-based TT electronics, will expand its Smithfield manufacturing facility, adding 76 jobs during the next three years and investing \$6 million into the area. The announcement is made possible in part by a \$100,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

“AB Automotive’s decision to expand in North Carolina proves that our economic development investments are benefiting both new and existing industries in North Carolina,” Easley said. “Our strong emphasis on education and workforce development ensures that companies such as AB Automotive Inc. can continue to grow here and that our state remains highly competitive in the new global economy.”

AB Automotive is a global supplier of automotive electronics such as interior climate control systems, sensors for suspension and headlight leveling, and switch assemblies. The Smithfield plant is adding printed circuit board manufacturing operations in order to compete more effectively in the North American automotive markets. The expansion will double the Smithfield facility’s workforce from its current 70 employees to 146 workers.

“One of the key contributing factors in our decision to invest in the Smithfield plant was an available workforce that over the past years has proven to be continually reliable and capable of being trained to meet any new manufacturing requirements,” said Steve Weddle, AB Automotive Inc. vice president. “Other factors include the support and accessibility of local education and training facilities along with the nearby universities. These factors along with the generous grant offered by the One North Carolina Fund has allowed us to proceed with this major investment.”

The One North Carolina Fund helps the state recruit and expand quality jobs by providing financial assistance to businesses or industries deemed by the governor to be vital to a healthy and growing state economy. Through the use of this Fund, more than 16,000 jobs and \$2 billion in investment have been created since 2001.

For more information about AB Automotive Inc. or possible job opportunities with the company, visit www.abautomotiveusa.com/company.htm.

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